

P-430/AR-95-1049

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak
Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition by United
Telephone Company of Minnesota Requesting
Adoption of an Alternative Regulation Plan

ISSUE DATE: January 26, 1996

DOCKET NO. P-430/AR-95-1049

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 10, 1995, United Telephone Company of Minnesota (United or the Company) filed a proposed alternative regulation plan pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 237.76 through 237.772.

On October 31, 1995, the Commission issued its NOTICE OF FILING, ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES, AND ORDER CONVENING SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE. That Order established deadlines for comments, replies, and responsive comments on the proposed plan.

On January 5, 1996, the Commission issued its ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION. In that Order the Commission granted United a 16 day extension to all timelines established in the October 31, 1995, Order. The Order also extended by 16 days the deadline for the Commission's decision under Minn. Stat. § 237.764, subd. 1(e).

On January 16, 1996, United filed a second request for a time extension. United explained that two of the parties to this proceeding, the Department of Public Service and the Office of the Attorney General, are also working on a similar proposal filed by Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc. Although United and the public agencies have had numerous fruitful meetings, the agencies' involvement in both filings has not left enough time for the further settlement discussions all agree are necessary. United therefore asked for a time extension of four weeks for the previously-established deadlines.

On January 23, 1996, the matter came before the Commission for consideration.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission agrees with United that the time extension is appropriate and should be granted. The four week delay should allow parties sufficient time to thoroughly explore the issues arising from this new form of telephone regulation. The Commission will grant United a time extension of 28 days for the time periods in the October 31 Order, as modified by the January 5 time extension, including the deadlines for initial comments, reply comments, and responsive comments. The time extension will also apply to the Commission's requirement to issue a decision under Minn. Stat. § 237.764, subd. 1(e).

ORDER

1. The Commission grants a time extension of 28 days to the time periods set in the October 31, 1995, Order, and modified in the January 5, 1996, Order. Initial comments are now due February 21, 1996, reply comments are due March 22, 1996, and responsive comments are due April 1, 1996. The Commission's deadline for action on this matter is extended to May 24, 1996.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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